

To: The Oklahoma Environmental
Quality Education Committee

Re: Environmental Education Grant Application

(Sample)



Project Title: ECO Summit

Contact Name: Suzanne Spradling

Position: OKAEE Board Member

Organization: Oklahoma Association for
Environmental Education (OKAEE)

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Grade Level: High School Ecology Clubs or
Environmental Science Classes

Environmental Education Grant Application
from
The Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education (OKAEE)

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Summary and Description

The Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education (OKAEE) recently hosted the first statewide ECO Summit, a consortium for high school ecology club/ environmental science students and their teachers/sponsors. Due to both time and logistical constraints, only two teachers' input was utilized in the planning process. Having discussed the planning possibilities for next year's summit, we came up with the idea of a one-day retreat for the teachers involved to debrief the first event and plan the next one. We would also like to include several teachers who were unable to participate this year, but want very much to be a part of this group. With everyone's busy schedules, we felt this retreat should be held during the week, thus causing the obstacle of funding substitutes. We are hoping to receive an environmental education grant for this purpose.

The ECO Summit intent is primarily to serve as a network and support group for the students and their sponsors, sharing ideas and successful activities. Students from OUR Earth, the environmental group from the University, are active partners in this effort, providing eight members to serve as staff for the 1998 summit. They met in small and large groups with the students, advising them on leadership and outreach techniques, as well how to plan an action campaign. They also assisted the student with tie-dying their ECO Summit tee shirts.

This project promotes enthusiasm to learn more about the environment by introducing students to new and exciting action-oriented environmental projects. The ECO Summit agenda will contain issue-specific sessions relevant to certain areas of the high school science curriculum. Some examples from the 1998 summit are: Blue Thumb water monitoring, tree mapping and energy conservation, composting and gardening, and recycling.

Community partnerships are frequently established when the students become involved with local projects. This event provides awareness of local community efforts available for student participation. Many high schools are now requiring community service hours, so joining with a local Adopt-A-Highway or Adopt-A-Park group would benefit all concerned in addition to helping improve the environment. The student groups also frequently include outreach to elementary schools in their district.



Goals and Objectives

The ECO Summit is a project of OKAEE's student arm, Students Acting for A Vital Earth (SAVE). SAVE was founded by Suzanne Spradling and her Heritage Hall ecology club in 1990, but was limited to the central Oklahoma area. In 1997, SAVE was adopted by the OKAEE board with the intent of expanding it statewide. The 1998 ECO Summit was the first step in achieving that goal.

The ECO Summit is intended to be both a support group and a resource bank for ecology club students and sponsors. During an informal survey of sponsors, a common thread of concern was figuring out how to start and maintain an ecology club. Ideas for issues such as this can best be gleaned from other successful groups during informal roundtable discussions. A "share fair" will definitely be part of the 1999 ECO Summit agenda. Successful club projects will be highlighted, with a summary and contact name provided for groups needing assistance.

Direct action organizing techniques are also featured at the Summit, teaching students how to affect change beneficial to the environment. The two projects addressed at the 1998 summit were the Get Outspoken bicycle campaign to help convince communities to encourage more bicycling by increasing and/or improving bicycle paths and the "Take It Back" campaign to persuade Coca-Cola to use recycled plastic in their soda bottles.

Implementation

Implementation of the projects shared at the summit will definitely emphasize a "hands-on" learning approach, as they are action-oriented projects where students can actually DO something for the environment. Participants will become excited about these projects and anxious to recruit others, such as environmental science or biology classes, upon returning to school. A ripple effect is a potential outcome of the summit, with each student who becomes involved reaching out to more students.

ATTACHMENTS

Timeline

March, 1999	Planning retreat for SAVE teacher/sponsors
November, 1999	ECO Summit

Budget for Environmental Education Grant

Ten (10) substitute payments for planning retreat @ \$50/each	\$500.00
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Budget for 1999 ECO Summit

(to be raised by Summit Committee)	\$2,000.00
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Evaluation

The completion of a written evaluation of ECO Summit participants, both students and teachers, will be requested at the end of the summit. Following the consolidation of the written evaluation results, a debriefing session of the planning committee will be held (possibly just by e-mail or conference call) to develop a set of recommendations for the following year's event.

Other attachments to follow:

- 1998 ECO Summit brochure
- OKAEE membership brochure
- Letter of Commitment

Date: November 25, 1998

To: The Oklahoma Environmental Quality Education Committee

From: Chris Moseley, PhD, President Elect
Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education (OKAEE)

Re: Environmental Education Grant Application

Please accept this memo of support from me, as I am the president-elect of OKAEE, who will be taking office in February, 1999. The OKAEE Board of Directors is in full support of SAVE and the establishment of an annual ECO Summit. We think it will provide a wonderful arm of support for teachers and students who are interested in implementing environmental projects through their school club or class.

We are totally committed to support SAVE in any way necessary, whether by assisting with fundraising, planning, presentations, etc. We will be looking forward to hearing a positive reply from your committee in the near future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Moseley
Oklahoma State University
College of Education
230 Willard
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-9515
moseley@okway.okstate.edu

Timeline

March, 1999	Planning retreat for SAVE teacher/ sponsors; select sub-committee chairs
April	Prepare invitation for ECO Summit and mail to high school ecology clubs (ask for commitments to participate and get it on everyone's calendar)
June/July	Sub-committees meet for planning event details
August	Send reminders to ecology clubs with registration packets for students and teachers
August	Sub-committees report to full planning committee; finalize Summit plans
September	Last minute coordination via e-mail;
September	Hold ECO Summit (2 day event)
October	Planning committee meeting to debrief (including discussion of participant evaluations)

Budget

Food/drinks	\$ 900.00
Location rental fee*	120.00
T-shirts	300.00
Printing of materials*	230.00
Supplies (notebooks, chartlets, etc.)	200.00
Postage*	150.00
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Total	\$ 1,870.00

**Items to be covered by \$500 environmental education grant*

OKAEE will cover cost of the t-shirts and supplies.

Sierra Club will pay for food and drinks.

Staff time and travel will be an in-kind donation by supporting state agencies.